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Dear Friend,

It is a great honor to serve the veterans living in the 14th Congressional District in Illinois. These brave men and women from every generation represent the very best of America, and our nation owes them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Today on Veterans Day, please thank a veteran you know.

I am working hard in Congress to open up job opportunities and make health care, financial institutions and government work better for our veterans.

When our servicemen and women return home, the last thing they should fear is unemployment. I cosponsored and supported House passage of the [Hire More Heroes Act](#) which encourages small businesses to hire veterans by providing relief from the Affordable Care Act's burdensome employer mandate.

This year I introduced the [Protecting Veterans Credit Act](#) with three of my House colleagues. The bill would protect the credit rating of

veterans and prevent them from unnecessary financial hardship due to delayed payments associations with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Choice Program.

I have also [sent a letter to the Secretary of the VA](#) encouraging local VA facilities to fully implement the Veterans Choice Program, which should be giving veterans far away from VA hospitals access to non-VA providers, particularly for necessary follow-up services like home care.

I was outraged by the incompetency at the VA that resulted in the inexcusable backlogs and treatment delays that cost thousands of veterans their lives. It's why I am demanding accountability and reform at the VA. No veteran should have to drive more than 40 miles to get the care that they need. Veterans should be able to choose their doctors and where they receive their health care.

Enough veterans have faced collateral damage from delays at the VA—vital and preventive health care services and credit scores should not be more casualties of the VA bureaucracy.

In addition, substance abuse, combat-related mental illnesses and resulting involvement in the criminal justice system are significant and often unaddressed issues within the veteran community.

These men and women who have served our country need our compassion and our help, and a designated, structured justice and treatment system for them is an important part of caring for our veterans.

That's why I am [working with county officials to discuss and develop best practices](#) regarding the implementation of Veterans Treatment Courts.

I want to continue to hear from you all what Congress can be doing better to make sure veterans are getting the services they need and deserve. Please use the Contact link above to let me know your views.

As always, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you.

In Your Service,



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